

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01250 090730Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 ORM-02 L-03 H-01 SP-02
AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
MC-02 IGA-02 OES-06 EB-08 COME-00 /104 W
-----090739Z 082520 /20

R 090630Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7449

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORO, EAID, EFIN
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING TO CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 38407, (B) KUWAIT 1093

1. I MET MARCH 8 WITH FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID AND PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF REPORT PREPARED BY DEPT. ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KUWAIT WHICH WAS POUCHED TO EMBASSY BY NEA/ARP. I EXPLAINED TO AL-RASHID THAT THIS REPORT WAS REQUIRED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT REPORT ACT OF 1976 FOR ANY COUNTRY TO WHICH WE PROVIDED SECURITY ASSISTANCE OR SOLD ARMS UNDER OUR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. THE DEPT. OF STATE, PURSUANT TO THIS ACT, HAD SUBMITTED REPORTS ON SOME 80 COUNTRIES. I ALSO INFORMED HIM OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS MARCH 7 IN WHICH HE STRESSED THAT THE UNDERTAKING TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF US FOREIGN POLICY. I RECALLED FOR AL-RASHID'S BENEFIT THAT THE EMBASSY HAD PROVIDED THE MFA WITH PERTINENT PARTIAL TEXTS OF ABOVE-MENTIONED LAW IN AN EMBASSY NOTE DATED OCT. 19, 1976.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THIS ACT, DEPT. WAS REQUIRED
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TO REPORT REACTIONS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS, WITHOUT ENDORSING THEM IN ANY WAY. I NOTED THAT KUWAIT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BUT THAT FREEDOM HOUSE HAD INDICATED IT WAS "NOT FREE." I SAID THAT NO DETAILS OR EXPLANATIONS OF THIS REMARK WERE PROVIDED.

3. RASHID AL-RASHID EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT BOTH AS TO THE NATURE OF THIS LAST OBSERVATION AND ITS SOURCE. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN HE SERVED WITH KUWAIT'S MISSION TO THE UN IN NY THERE WERE NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SOUGHT TO CATEGORIZE NATIONS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER WITHOUT HAVING CLEARLY DEFINED WHAT THEIR PARAMETERS WERE AND WITHOUT ANY FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY ITSELF. HE MAINTAINED THAT KUWAIT WAS ON A DEMOCRATIC COURSE, DESPITE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WAS IN THE LARGE PART DUE TO THE LACK OF NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY DISPLAYED BY THE LEGISLATORS THEMSELVES.

4. I SAID THAT I HAD READ WITH INTEREST THE AMIR'S RECENT MESSAGE TO THE KUWAITI PEOPLE ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY, IN WHICH HE STATED HE WOULD SOON START CONSULTATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION (REF. B). RASHID AL-RASHID COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE GOK INTENDED TO RESUME ITS "DEMOCRATIC MARCH," AS THE AMIR HAD PUT IT. HE OBSERVED THAT NOT EVERYONE WAS NOT ENTIRELY ENTHUSED BY HIS MESSAGE WHICH THEY FELT WAS A HARBINGER OF AN EVENTUAL REESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. RASHID AL-RASHID INDICATED THAT THE BASIS FOR ELECTING MEMBERS FOR ANY NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CHANGED, BECAUSE THE PREVIOUS ONE WAS IMBALANCED IN FAVOR OF THE BEDOUIN POPULATION WHICH HELD 30 OF THE 50 ELECTED SEATS. THE INFLUENTIAL AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF KUWAIT WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN BETTER REPRESENTATION. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, HE SAID THAT NO REAL THOUGHT HAD YET BEEN GIVEN TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL

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STRUCTURE, WHETHER UNICAMERAL OR BICAMERAL, OF A REINSTITUTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770379/aaaacqzf.tel
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TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORO, EAID, EFIN, KU
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